SUBJECT No. 63.

A railway line between Bangalore and Hosur.

Messrs. B. Srinivasaiengar and R. Subba Rao, Anekal Taluk; Gubbiah, Anekal Municipality, and Raja Narasiah Setty, Tyamagondlu Municipality.

Mr. B. Srinivasaiengar.—If the Government were to take up the question of constructing a railway line between Bangalore and Hosur, I am sure the scheme would be profitable to them owing to increased traffic. I therefore request that the Government would take up this work at an early date.

First Member of Council.—The authorities of the South Indian Railway Company are being addressed in the matter. But more urgent and pressing demands will have to be given preference over this, and further, I am afraid the scheme would not be very remunerative.

SUBJECT No. 64.

Train service between Kolar and Bangalore *via* Chintamani.

Mr. Kanchi Seethappa Setty, Chintamani Municipality.

Mr. Kanchi Seethappa Setty.—Under the existing arrangement only one Up and one Down train are running from Bangalore to Kolar. This may be raised to at least two Up and two Down.

First Member of Council.—Owing to want of engine power it is not possible at present to improve the train service. Three additional locomotives are due to arrive within the next two months and on their receipt arrangements will be made to improve matters.

SUBJECT No. 65.

Stoppage of Mail Trains at Nidavanda.

Messrs. Suryanarayana Rao and H. Ramanna, Tumkur Taluk.

Mr. Suryanarayana Rao.—It would be a great convenience to the passengers who alight at Nidavanda Station if the Up and Down Mail train stops at that station. I therefore request that the Government may kindly arrange with the Madras and Southern Mahratta Railway Company to have this done.

First Member of Council.—As a rule, mail trains do not stop at minor stations as they are chiefly intended for long distance traffic and it is essential in the interest of the great majority of the public that they should be delayed as little as possible on the journey. The request will, however, be brought to the notice of the Agent, Madras and Southern Mahratta Railway Company, and if in his judgment, the amount of traffic offering at the station is sufficient to justify the delay he will doubtless arrange to stop the Mails at the station.

LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENT.

(Nos. 66 to 71.)

SUBJECT No. 66

A Commission to reorganise Local Boards and Village Panchayets.

Mr. K. Venkatasamaiya, Mysore District Board; K. V. Narayana Rao, Nanjangud Municipality, E. Krishnappa and Bandaiya, Nanjangud Taluk.

Mr. K. Venkatasamaiya.—The working of the Local Boards and Panchayets is not satisfactory. In some places members of the Local Boards and Panchayets do not seem to be responsible for the affairs and consequently the receipts are wasted on unnecessary things. If there is an income of about Rs. 200 in a certain village a panchayet is formed, and if any receipts accrue it will be utilised for paying the scavenger.

Second Member of Council.—It is meant for this purpose. You must make use of it for better purposes chiefly for improvements.

Mr. K. Venkatasamaiya.—As Vice-President I have urged this with a purpose. My idea is that instead of such panchayets let there be panchayets only in big places.

Second Member of Council.—Taluk Boards must do this.

Mr. K. Venkatasamaiya.—I want an officer to go and do this—an officer of the rank of an Assistant Commissioner. In the alternative let a Commission be appointed to go into the question and send a report.

Second Member of Council.—It would be too costly. District Boards ought to look into this. The President and Vice-President should go and see. They get T. A. One Provincial officer cannot do it. It means establishment. The income will be eaten away.

Mr. K. Venkatasamaiya.—It will be only nominal otherwise.

Second Member of Council.—The remedy is in your own hands.

Mr. K. Venkatasamaiya.—Yes. We cannot do it though we do not want Government interference. I want a Committee or a Conference. My idea is not to centralize, but to improve the working of the system.

Second Member of Council.—Local Self-Government scheme has three parts, (1) District Board, (2) Taluk Board, and (3) Village Panchayets. Is it the last that is unsatisfactory ?

Mr. K. Venkatasamaiya.—There are defects in all the three.

Second Member of Council.—We know it. There are two ways of remedying. Either Government should interfere or you yourself should do it.

Mr. K. Venkatasamaiya.—Even the Taluk Boards do not know definitely what their functions are, and how far they can exercise their powers.

Second Member of Council.—Taluk Conferences may be held where the question of improving the existing Taluk Boards may be discussed in detail and resolutions sent up to Government for orders. This would be a better course than the appointment of a Commission.

Mr. Usman Khan.—The question of the formation of Village Panchayets was discussed in this Assembly about eight years ago when it was decided that Village Panchayets should be formed. Amildars, Assistant Commissioners and Deputy Commissioners are on the Boards ; but they hardly do any work. The brunt of the work generally falls on the Vice-President who is a non-official; but when the question of giving promotion or when a transfer is to be made, permission will have to be sought from the Deputy Commissioner. During *jamabandi* and other collection work, the non-official members of the various boards will have to assist the official members and see to the proper collection work. This distinction is hardly fair. Now there is a sum of Rs. 68,000 in the Bangalore District in arrears and this sum the non-officials will have to collect. Let a statement be called for now as to how many *jamabandis* have been held, and what amount they have collected. Our request is that the Government should give the non-officials some more power and not keep them as nominal Vice-Presidents. If this is done, there will be no necessity for the appointment of a Commission for this purpose. Further, the Government should, as far as possible, prohibit the interference of the Revenue officers.

Dewan.—The matter will be enquired into.

Mr. H. Krishna Sastri.—Before Village Panchayets were formed there were small Unions where some of the village disputes were settled. Village Panchayets have been formed for about eight years. The proceedings of the Taluk Conferences should be generally reviewed by

the Government in a Government Order pointing out the defects and suggesting measures as to how to effect improvements. Otherwise the Conferences would serve no useful purpose. The Village Panchayets should know before they are formed as to how they stand with regard to their financial stability, and how far they can exercise their powers. The Government have ordered that half the powers are vested in the Village Panchayets, and the other half in the Government, but, at the same time, the Government have not given any powers to them over their finances which is rather an anomaly. The District and Taluk Boards have control over the Panchayets. Since the Panchayets have no control over their finances, it would not be possible to understand what amount of work has been done by them. Full responsibility is given to the Panchayets all over the world, and it is only fair to do so according to the Local Self-Government scheme. The same responsibility should also be extended to our Panchayets. Otherwise the principle of Local Self-Government would be null and void. If this is done, there is no necessity to appoint a Commission.

Second Member of Council.—The whole question will be examined. It is a very difficult one. Your demands about grant of powers are difficult to decide. Proper hands are not available, and the Deputy Commissioner having several Departments in his charge will somehow manage. About funds and their disposal, there are difficulties. We will examine the question.

Dewan.—The question of the financial powers of the Taluk Boards, the powers of Panchayets and the relationship between the two bodies, and the provincialisation of these Taluk Board services will be examined in detail and a comprehensive order will be issued.

Messrs. Krishna Sastri and Srinivasa Rao.—Please order investment of funds at once. We cannot give out the reason here.

Dewan.—We will consider the whole question.

SUBJECT No. 67.

Prohibiting Government servants from voting at all elections.

Mr. C. Rasul Khan, Anjumane-Islamia, Chikmagalur.

Mr. Rasul Khan.—Government servants also are permitted to vote during the election of President and Vice-President of Taluk or Town Municipalities. If an official begins to vote for a certain member, most of the other non-official members follow his example and vote for the same man. For instance at Chikmagalur an Assistant Commissioner persuaded Mr. Srinivasa Rao to stand for election. Five officials voted for him. A word from the officers results in such one-sided votes. This should be prohibited.

Mr. Purushottamanandagiri Goswami.—For election of members, there need be no restriction. But, for election of President or Vice-President, officials should not vote. There will be partiality.

Dewan.—The rules with regard to the election of Presidents and Vice-Presidents will be changed in view of your representation.

SUBJECT No. 68.

Withdrawal of Local Cess and *Mohatarfa* from Local Boards.

Mr. B. Srinivasaiengar and R. Subba Rao, Anekal Taluk, and Gubbiya, Anekal Municipality.

Mr. B. Srinivasaiengar.—In the Government Order passed on the Education Memorandum, it has been laid down that the local cess levied on Excise, Forest revenues and rural *mohatarfa*, and also the surplus accrued thereon shall be withdrawn from the District and Taluk Boards in addition to the levying of Education Cess. The main